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# "San Salvador"

A STORY OF COLUMBUS

AND HIS DISCOVERIES

By M. J. K.

1892

American Popular Publication Co.  
Chicago

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS









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*American Popular Publications. No. 1.*

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1492--1892

# “SAN SALVADOR:”

A Story of Columbus and His Discoveries

AND A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE

MOUND BUILDERS, VISITS OF THE NORSEMEN,  
MODERN DISCOVERY

AND THE

WORLD'S COLUMBIAN  
EXPOSITION

Michael James  
By M. J. Kelly.

AMERICAN POPULAR PUBLICATION CO.  
CHICAGO

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## INTRODUCTION.

THE United States, as the representative nation of the New World, has decided to commemorate the discovery of this continent, four hundred years ago, by a gigantic enterprise, which is to bring together the products of the earth and the works of man's genius and industry. Vast buildings are in course of construction for the accommodation of this great gathering of the world's workers, which is to take place in the city of Chicago, on the shores of Lake Michigan, and which has been named the World's, Columbian Exposition. The celebration will commence on the twelfth of October, 1892, the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus.

This event has increased the interest of the public in the story of Columbus and a flood of Columbian literature, in every form, is the result. In some of these the great discoverer has been subjected to the severe scrutiny of historical critics; doubts have been raised, blame has been imputed and in some instances his guilt has been declared ;

they have announced that his motives were selfish, his character sordid and his whole life one continuous effort for personal aggrandisement. One claims that he was not descended from noble ancestors ; another that it is impossible he attended university lectures ; then a third asserts that his idea of western discovery was borrowed from others and was not an original conception. The existence of Columbus and the greatness of his discovery are the only statements not questioned ; but he is described as a foolhardy adventurer, a pirate captain and a man of selfish and depraved life. On the other side the admirers of the Admiral while extolling his great achievement, claim that he endured unprecedented opposition with phenomenal fortitude ; that courage, constancy and confidence, which neither age, infirmity, misfortune nor abandonment could alter, marked his marvellous career ; and that inspired genius, purity of motive and deep religious fervor guided his eventful life.

From the foolish attempt to beatify and from the cruel attempt to vilify all unbiased minds recoil with equal contempt. Columbus was a sailor from early boyhood, trained in a rough

school, where merchant ships had to fight their way from port to port; he was a map-maker when geographical knowledge was defective, yet his maps were praised by the learned of that time; he proposed a voyage of discovery across the Atlantic, when the maritime nations of the Old World were active in fitting out expeditions of discovery, but his suggestion was scoffed at, his services declined and the enterprise declared impossible, yet he crossed the unknown ocean and proclaimed to Europe the existence of the western hemisphere. As a mariner he was daring, restless and experienced, as a map-maker he was ahead of his time and as a discoverer he has conferred benefits on the human family that have not been equalled in ancient or modern times.

Men of sublime thoughts, energetic action, patient purpose and resolute work, have come from every rank in life. Shakspeare's father was a butcher and he himself a cloth-weaver and afterwards an actor, Ben Jonson worked with a trowel in his hand and a book in his pocket. Robert Burns' best conceptions were formed at the plough, Bunyan was a tinker, Kepler a "*garçon de cabaret*" and Cardinal Wolsey the



son of a butcher. Andrew Johnson was a tailor, Abraham Lincoln a log splitter, and Ulysses S. Grant was a tanner. These are names familiar to us by great works achieved. Among the men of great enterprise and of persistent effort stands prominently the son of the poor wool comber of Genoa, Christopher Columbus.

The life of this remarkable man reads like a fairy tale, and many of the incidents of his extraordinary career would be beyond belief were they not well authenticated. His adventures are as interesting as "Sinbad" or "Robinson Crusoe" and can not fail to have a good influence on others when they meet difficulties or face dangers. Columbus is not here painted as an ideal character ; no claim is made to scholarly education or sublime qualities of heart. The story is told how he astonished and enriched Europe by the discovery of a world such as kings sighed for, poets dreamed of and philosophers hinted at, but which, before his time, the boldest mariner would not dare to seek.

To the story of Columbus is added a brief account of that wonderful race, the Mound-Builders ; the Visit of the Northmen and Modern



Discovery. These chapters will be found useful to young people, for whom there is also added a chapter on the World's Columbian Exposition and a Glossary of difficult terms and phrases. The endeavor has been to make this story brief, interesting, complete, accurate and useful. In this busy age, time is almost wholly occupied and the hours left for reading few. The pocket edition of a carefully prepared volume, combining brevity and fullness in treatment; interest and accuracy in matter; and neatness and utility in form is the want of the hour. 'The Story of Columbus' is an attempt to meet this requirement.

M. J. K.

*Park Manor, Chicago, June 1892.*



## CHAPTER I.

### MASTODON AND MOUND-BUILDER.

PREHISTORIC AGE.—A RUDE CIVILIZATION.

MOUNDS AT NEWARK, OHIO.—MONUMENTS OF  
A FORGOTTEN PEOPLE.—A VISION OF THE  
PAST.

MANY hundred years ago, there roamed through the primeval forests of this country, huge animals that have long since become extinct. In their skeletons, some of which have been found, we have evidence of their existence and a proof of their great size. They have been named Mastodons and Mammoths and resembled the elephant. In the skeleton of one of these wild and terrible creatures, found a few years ago, there was imbedded a flint arrow head, by which it is supposed to have been slain and which must have been made by the men who lived in that remote, prehistoric age. We know nothing more of these men than that they were here at that very remote period. We have no

knowledge of whence they came or whither they went, but we have the strongest proof that they were numerous and that they had acquired a rude civilization.

The first race that left any monuments by which it could be traced, was the Mound-builders. They lived subsequent to the time of the Mastodon but prior to the date of our present history. The Mound-builders cultivated the soil and depended on it for support, rather than on the uncertain product of the chase ; they had some knowledge of ores and smelting, made pottery and cloth of a rude kind, modelled in clay and carved stone. These men were not savage for they worked hard, which the savage seldom does. They had skill and loved the beautiful. The mounds they have left show great care and experience, both in form and in construction, and are some of the most interesting of the ancient monuments of this country. They are very numerous and very extensive.

The mounds at Newark, Ohio, are very good specimens and although they cover several hundred acres they are not the largest. They are built in the form of great circles, squares and

octagons and were used as places of defense, or sepulture and some were set apart for religious rites. These works are the results of infinite toil. We are told that, in the construction of one of the Egyptian pyramids, 360,000 men were employed for twenty years. We may therefore conclude that the expenditure of labor on the construction of these monuments, of a prehistoric past, must have been almost beyond calculation. If at the present day, with our iron implements and labor-saving machines, it would occupy thousands of men many months, to complete one of these works, what must have been the amount of labor and time expended by the Mound-builder, assisted only by his stone spade and axe.

To the student visiting one of these monuments of a remote civilization, there is opened up a vision of the past which fills his mind with feelings of awe and reverence. Here, on this continent, where Liberty has built herself a home, there lived and toiled and died hundreds of thousands of human beings, long before Romulus built Rome or the Pharaohs ruled in Egypt, and when Babylon was in its infancy these monuments

existed, in memory of a distant past and of a forgotten people :

“ Oh ! a wonderful stream is the river Time,  
As it runs through the realm of tears,  
With a faultless rhythm and a musical rhyme  
And a broader sweep and a surge sublime,  
As it blends in the ocean of years ! ”



## CHAPTER II.

### FIRST EUROPEAN VISITORS.

FROM FROZEN FIORD AND ROCKY SHORE.—THE  
NORSEMEN.—THE TERROR OF EUROPE.—LIEF  
ERICKSON.—VINLAND.—SKELETON IN ARMOUR.

A LITTLE boat, weather-beaten and storm-tossed, having on board a crew of strong, well armed men, with light, long hair, fair skin and blue eyes, sailed slowly past the coast of Newfoundland. They gazed in wonder on the fertile plains, the rapid rivers, the pathless forests and the fruit-laden islands. These daring sailors had come in their small bark, from the far off Scandinavian shore, and were of the race of hardy Norsemen, who, for centuries, had been the terror of Europe.

“Their frozen sails the low, pale sun  
Of Thule’s night has shone upon ;  
Flapped by the sea-wind’s gusty sweep  
Round icy drift, and headland steep.”

From their frozen fiord and rocky shore these restless adventurers had come and viewed in

amazement, for the first time, the New World. The timid, naked savages, that crowd the shore look frail and puny when compared to these muscular, broad-chested seamen. The American Indian found here in the tenth country, by the Northmen, was not of the race we now know, they were said to be gentle, trustful and friendly. They had soft brown bodies, little strength and less desire for work, but in running and hunting they were experts and accustomed to great endurance.

The Norsemen or Northmen belonged to the peninsulas and islands of northern Europe. They were a hardy race, accustomed to the sea and to the excitement of a pirate's life. They were daring and experienced sailors and fearless fighters. From their barren and rock-bound coast and cold climate, the hardy Norseman became the terror and the scourge of Southern Europe. Restless, fearless and venturesome, they conquered wherever they went. They frightened the Emperor Charlemagne in France, and in 912 King Charles ceded to them a portion of his kingdom, which has ever since been called Normandy; they fought Alfred the Great

in England, and gave four kings to that country. In one of their voyages of venture and plunder they were driven by adverse winds along the coast of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

When they returned and told the story of the country they had seen, Lief Erickson, a daring sailor, fitted out a ship, and with thirty-five good seamen went in search of the fertile lands in the West. This was in the year 1000. After braving many dangers they landed in Newfoundland, which they called Helluland, and then in Nova Scotia, to which they gave the name of Markland; thence they sailed southward, and in a couple of days they entered a sound where they anchored. Here they found salmon in abundance, and larger than any they had seen before; when they went ashore they found grapes growing wild and on that account they called the place Vinland; since then the name has been changed but little, it is now called Martha's Vineyard.

When Lief Erickson returned home, his brother Thorbald fitted out a ship and went to Vinland in 1002, and remained there about three years. It is thought that the skeleton in armour,

found near Fall River, in Massachusetts in 1831, was that of Thorbald, who had been killed by the Indians, more than eight hundred years before.

There are accounts of other journeys by the Norsemen to this country, the most important of which is that of Thorfinn Karlsfenn with his wife Gudfrid and one hundred and fifty-one men and seven women. They remained a considerable time, and it is probable that they built the tower that still stands at Newport, and which Longfellow has made the subject of one of his poems.

It is claimed that the Northmen made other expeditions to this country in 1011 and also in 1121, but these venturers had only temporary possession, and only caught a glance of the New World. No permanent knowledge was obtained and, in a short time, their discovery was lost to mankind.

## CHAPTER III.

### THE CASTLE BY THE SEA.

SPECTRE CAPE.—BARTHOLEMEW DIAZ.—MODERN DISCOVERY.—PRINCE HENRY'S USEFUL LIFE.—VASCO DE GAMA.—LISBON, THE RESORT OF THE ADVENTUROUS.

A CLOUD rises, darkens the air, and then discloses a monstrous giant, with deep-set, caverned eyes, of rugged countenance and pallid, earthy color, vast in size, the colossal wonder of the world. In solemn tones, this awful shape, prophesies disaster and threatens vengeance on those who have discovered him. In answer to the question "Who art thou?" the apparition replies, that he is the great Stormy Cape and that he is much offended by their boldness in approaching him. He told them that he was Adamaster of the race of Titans. That he had been deceived by Thetis, the fairest being of the sea, and how in his grief, he had wandered forth to seek another world. Vengeance pursued him



and he was turned into a rock and they now beheld him known as the Cape of Tempests, so long the dread of sailors.

The genius of the Stormy Cape then vanished in a moment amid the angry waters and with a noise as great as the roar of ten thousand angry lions.

The prostrate mariner prayed God to remove the evil things Adamaster prophesied against him and his nation.

That is how the discovery made by Bartholomew Diaz, in 1486, is recorded in the *Lusiadas* of Camöens, and is one of the most beautiful passages in modern poetry. What was this discovery that so disturbed Adamaster? Diaz had sailed round the most southern point of Africa and had ventured to pass, what had been called, the “Cape of Tempests” and the “Lion of the Sea.” The discovery was considered very important and great hopes were entertained of future discovery as the result. The Portuguese king, John II., therefore changed the name, and called it “Cape of Good Hope.”

Long before this important event, Portugal had been actively engaged in discovery, and to



her may be given the credit of the active search, made in the fifteenth century, for new countries and for new highways to the old.

Among the most active promoters of discovery was Prince Henry. He was born in 1394 and was the son of John I. of Portugal. When twenty-one years of age, he was present at the capture of Ceuta, in Africa. This city, which lies opposite to Gibraltar, was of great magnificence and one of the great markets of the eastern world. Prince Henry determined to bring the trade of the East to Portugal, but for that purpose it would be necessary to send his ships round the continent of Africa, a voyage which he could not get sailors to undertake.

We are now so familiar with the ease and safety of sea voyages, that we can scarcely imagine the terrors that were felt, even by hardy sailors, on an unknown sea in the fifteenth century. Legends of great sea-monsters, rocks of loadstone, fiery skies and flying islands were talked of and believed. The knowledge of geography was very imperfect, charts were misleading, the mariner's compass had only lately been introduced, and the sextant was unknown. Prince Henry

had, therefore, many difficulties. He was an able mathematician and had made himself acquainted with astronomy as then known. In order to devote himself more completely to the work of discovery, he retired from the Portuguese court and fixed his abode upon the promontory of Sagres, in the south of Portugal.

In this Castle by the Sea, he gathered around him the learned, the daring and the experienced mariners of the world. From this rock he could cheer his captains as they ventured on the unknown ocean, or greet them on their return. Here he was told of the storm that drove his ship on an unknown island, which was called Porto Santo, the first advanced outpost of African discovery. Here again he was told of a beautiful island which the discoverer called Madeira, and here it was that he formed the opinion that Africa was circumnavigable. The settlement of this question he considered an object of importance and one likely to confer great benefit on his country, and he devoted himself to it with a noble enthusiasm. He was before the age, however, and had to encounter ignorance and prejudice. The navigation of the Atlantic

was yet in its infancy, and mariners feared to venture beyond the well-known landmarks.

To dispel their fears Prince Henry established a naval college and placed it in charge of men learned in navigation and skillful in making maps and instruments. Their labors were most successful. Geography and navigation became a system, maps were greatly improved, and the compass was brought into more general use.

Prince Henry died in 1473, without accomplishing the great object of his ambition, the opening of a highway for commerce to the opulent regions of the East. He lived long enough, however, to reap the reward of a great and good mind and to see Portugal, from being one of the least among nations, rise to be one of the most important. At his death, he left it in charge to his country to explore the route to India, but it was many years afterwards when Vasco de Gama, with a Portuguese fleet, realized Henry's wishes by sailing round Africa and along the southern coast of India.

The fame of the Portuguese discoveries and expeditions attracted the attention of the world, and Lisbon became the resort of the learned, the

curious and the adventurous. Among these we find, at this time, Christopher Columbus, drawn thither in pursuit of his cherished theory, discovery in the West ; an object which he had constantly in his mind, and which he believed he had been appointed by Heaven to accomplish.

## CHAPTER IV.

### THE MAP-MAKER OF GENOA.

IMPERISHABLE WORKS OF ITALY'S SONS.—  
TRAINED IN A RUGGED SCHOOL.—LIFE ON  
THE MEDITERRANEAN.—TWO USEFUL ER-  
RORS.—A MYSTERY FULL OF TERRORS.

WHEN Prince John was in the prime of life and was raising Portugal, by his useful and unselfish labors, to a high place among maritime nations, there was born in an Italian seaport a boy, who was destined to become the greatest of geographical discoverers and to open up what, on account of its vastness, has been justly styled the New World.

Italy has not only given to us imperishable masterpieces of poetry, painting and sculpture to ennoble mankind, but she has, by the genius of her sons, enriched the world. Foremost among her children, who have written their names indelibly on the roll of the world's benefactors, and enshrined themselves in the grateful memories of the world's workers, is Christopher Columbus.



He was born in Genoa, about the year 1435, and was the oldest of four children. His parents were in humble circumstances. After he had learned the ordinary branches of an elementary education, he was sent, for a short time, to the university of Pavia, where he studied geography and astronomy. He could not have made much progress in these subjects, as he commenced a seafaring life when only fourteen years of age. The short time he spent at the university was barely sufficient to give him the rudiments of these subjects, and the knowledge, which he afterwards showed, must have been obtained by study amid the cares and labors of his eventful life.

The first voyage of Columbus was made with a relative, named Colombo, a hardy, bold and experienced seaman. During an interval of some years we have only a scant record of the young sailor. A maritime merchant, in those days, had often to fight his way from port to port. Piracy was almost legalized, feuds between the states on the coast constant, and ships manned by private adventurers scoured the sea. Such was the rugged school in which Columbus received



his maritime training, sometimes engaged in commercial voyages and at other times in warlike contests. His scanty earnings as a sailor were often increased by map-making for others. The maps of that time display a strange mixture of truth and error, but we are told that the correctness of his maps gained for him a good reputation among men of science. His studies and calculations led him to perceive how much of the world remained unknown and prompted him to adopt plans to explore it.

The great dark waters of the Atlantic were a mystery, full of terrors and dangers, not only to children, but to brave and hardy sailors, who had spent their lives on the sea. It seemed to them, that the earth was a flat surface, with a great zone of water of unknown extent surrounding it. They were terrified by the thought of what might befall them if they reached the boundary of it. A few scholars thought the earth might be a sphere but they never dreamed of its vast size. Columbus fell into two errors, at this time, which he held through his whole life, viz.:—the smallness of the earth and the largeness of Asia. It is strange that these errors

largely assisted him in the discovery of the New World.

We must not forget, that Copernicus had not yet revolutionized astronomy by his solar system, the falling apple had not yet suggested to Newton the law of universal gravitation, and Kepler's laws had not yet been written. Marco Polo had only recently introduced the mariner's compass, paper making was yet in its infancy, Güttenberg was perfecting his printing press and the universities were only beginning to extend the boundaries of knowledge.

## CHAPTER V.

### AT THE COURTS OF THE NOBLE.

THE CENTER OF MODERN DISCOVERY.—MARRIES DONA FELIPA.—RESIDENCE AT PORTO SANTO.—HIS ESTIMATE OF THE EARTH'S CIRCUMFERENCE.—VISITS THE ULTIMA THULE. GAINS AN AUDIENCE.—LEAVES PORTUGAL.

ABOUT the year 1470, there appeared at the Court of Portugal a man of middle age, an experienced mariner, a map-maker of good repute and an enthusiastic advocate of western discovery. He was tall, well formed and muscular ; simple in dress, eloquent in discourse and dignified in manner. He had come to the great center of modern discovery, attracted by the renown that Portugal had attained, by the labors of Prince John and his captains, to offer his services in the search for a new route to the rich realms of the East. This man was Christopher Columbus.

While in Lisbon, Columbus made the acquaint-

ance of a lady of rank but destitute of fortune, Dona Felipa, the daughter of one of the most distinguished navigators under Prince John. The friendship soon ripened into affection and resulted in marriage. The mother of the bride, with whom the newly married couple resided, gave Columbus all the charts and papers of her late husband, these, no doubt, increased his passion for discovery. His scanty means was earned by occasional sea voyages and by map-making. After a short time he went to reside at Porto Santo, a recently discovered island, where his son Diego was born.

In his island home, surrounded by the excitement of maritime life, the ardent mind of Columbus kindled with enthusiasm in the cause of discovery. Here, he revived the stories and fancies of the ancients ; here, visiting mariners told him of reeds of immense size, trunks of huge pine trees and pieces of carved wood, which had been driven to the Azores by western winds ; here, he divided the circumference of the earth at the equator in twenty-four hours of fifteen degrees each, making a total of three hundred and sixty degrees. Of these, he considered that fif-

teen hours had been known to the ancients, that is from the Canary Islands to the city of 'Thinæ, a place set down as the eastern limits of Asia. The Portuguese had advanced west from the Canaries one hour by the discovery of the Azores. There then remained eight hours or one-third of the circumference of the earth unknown.

Such in brief is an abstract of the grounds on which Columbus came to the conclusion that there was undiscovered land in the western part of the ocean. It was the conception of genius, prompted by the impulse of the age and aided by the fragments of knowledge which fell ineffectually upon ordinary minds.

While maturing his plans for discovery in the West, Columbus made a voyage to Europe, it is believed to have been to Iceland, which is far to the west of the Ultima Thule of the ancients. Whether, in this voyage, he heard of Lief Erickson's visit to Vinland is not known, but the probabilities are that he did not. Several years elapsed without any effort on his part to carry out his western expedition. It is said that he endeavored to engage his native city, Genoa, in the undertaking, but without success, and he



was too poor himself to fit out the ships necessary for so long a voyage.

In 1481, John II. ascended the throne of Portugal. He was then in his twenty-fifth year, and had imbibed a passion for discovery from his granduncle, Prince Henry. It was about this time that Columbus sought the patronage of the court of Portugal for his enterprise. In an audience with the king, he said, his plan was to strike directly to the west, across the Atlantic to India, instead of the route by the African coast.

The reasoning of Columbus must have produced some effect, for the king convoked his council and asked advice in the matter. The council, having received from Columbus a detailed plan of his proposed voyage, and the charts according to which he intended to shape his course, dispatched a vessel, secretly, to ascertain whether there was any foundation for his theory. This attempt to defraud him roused the indignation of Columbus and he declined to renew the negotiation.

The death of his wife had dissolved the tie that bound him to Portugal and, in 1484, he left Lisbon secretly. Like many great projectors

he had allowed his own affairs to go to ruin and was obliged to struggle hard with poverty and had, as it were, to beg his way from court to court, to offer to princes the discovery of a world.

## CHAPTER VI.

### FERDINAND AND ISABELLA.

PERIOD OF GREAT PROSPERITY.—MIGRATIONS OF A MILITARY COURT.—MOUNTAIN FORTRESS OF THE MOORS.—PINCHING POVERTY.—HIS PLANS PRONOUNCED IMPOSSIBLE.—LEAVES FOR FRANCE.

THE first record we have of Columbus, after his flight from Portugal, is in the south of Spain, where he laid his plan of discovery before the Duke of Medina Celi in the year 1485, who, though favorably impressed, was deterred by the great importance of the enterprise. The duke, however, wrote to Queen Isabella, strongly recommending it to her consideration. The queen's reply was a request that Columbus be sent to her.

The Spanish monarchy was at this time enjoying a period of great prosperity. The union of Ferdinand and Isabella had put an end to the feuds between Arragon and Castile; the Moors

were pent up within the mountain boundaries of Granada, and the arms of Spain were continually pressing them into narrower limits; and after eight hundred years of bitter strife the "Kingdom of the Moors" was nearing its end and the chivalry of Spain hoped soon to float the national standard over the magnificent fortress of the Alhambra.

Ferdinand was a monarch of clear and comprehensive genius, even in temper, devout in religion and indefatigable in business. Castile he obtained by marriage and Granada and Naples by conquest. His forces had reduced to vassalage Tunis, Tripoli and Algiers and his court was, at this time, like a military camp where he entertained veterans who had distinguished themselves in many conflicts. Isabella exceeded her husband in personal dignity, acuteness of genius and grandeur of soul; she infused a lofty and generous spirit into his sordid and calculating policy.

When Columbus presented himself at court, he was disappointed in his hope of obtaining an immediate audience, but by command of the queen, he became the guest of the controller of

the treasury who became his warm friend. While in Cordova, waiting for an audience with the queen, Columbus became attached to a lady of that city, Beatrix Enríquez. She was the mother of his second son, Fernando, who was born in 1487 and who afterwards became his father's historian.

When the court removed to Salamanca, in 1487, Columbus followed it there, and by the assistance of the Grand Cardinal, obtained admission to the royal presence. He appeared at court with modesty and self-possession, and told his plan with eloquence and zeal; his manner was noble and earnest; his arguments simple and forcible. Ferdinand was cool and wary, and determined to be guided by the opinion of the most learned astronomers and cosmographers of his kingdom, who were commanded to hold conference with Columbus. Military events interrupted this conference, which was not held until 1490.

During this interval, Columbus received from the king of Portugal an invitation to return to his court, and another from Henry VII. of England, holding out promises of encouragement if

he would visit him. These invitations he neglected, and during the long and painful delays, to which he was subjected, he supported himself by making maps and charts, and by occasional donations from the sovereigns of Spain. All this time, he was the subject of scoffs and ridicule by the ignorant, who believed him to be a dreamer and a romancer. The very children pointed to their foreheads, as he passed, being taught to regard him as a sort of madman.

When the long-adjourned conference was held toward the end of the year 1490, Columbus presented the plan of his enterprise with force, simplicity and eloquence. His answers and arguments astonished the learned men and convinced them of his ability and knowledge. At the close of the conference, the report sent to their majesties, was in substance, that the proposed scheme was vain and impossible. The Spanish monarchs, however, sent word to Columbus that the cares and expense of the war, they were engaged in, made it impossible for them to engage in a new enterprise, but that when the war was concluded, they would have both time and inclination to treat with him. Columbus looked on



this indefinite postponement as a courtly refusal, and left Seville indignant at the loss of so many precious years. Sad, weary, poor and disappointed he turned his back on the court, determined to seek elsewhere the help which Spain had refused him.

## CHAPTER VII.

### ISABELLA IMMORTALIZES SPAIN.

A BEGGAR AT THE GATE.—COLUMBUS RECALLED.  
FALL OF GRANADA.—NEGOTIATIONS BROKEN  
OFF.—ISABELLA UNDERTAKES THE ENTER-  
PRISE.—PRINCELY REWARDS PROMISED AND  
CONFIRMED.

ONE day a stranger on foot, in humble guise, but of distinguished air, accompanied by a boy, stopped at the gate of the convent of Santa Maria de Rabida, near the little seaport of Palos in Andalusia, and asked the porter for a little bread and water for his child. The prior of the convent was struck by the appearance of the stranger and entered into conversation with him. The stranger was Columbus.

The prior, who was a man of much geographical knowledge, was interested in the story told by his guest. He detained Columbus for several days and, learning from him that he intended to abandon Spain and go to the court of France, he requested him to delay

his journey until he had time to communicate with Queen Isabella. Columbus readily consented and the good prior's letter was favorably answered by the queen. She invited Columbus to return, sent him money to defray the expenses of his journey and assured him of her help in his projected enterprise.

Columbus was favorably received at the court, where he arrived in time to witness the memorable surrender of Granada, by the last of the Moorish kings, and one of the most brilliant triumphs of Spanish chivalry. On every side were military rejoicings, the glitter of arms and the sound of music and festivity. Columbus, obscure, melancholy and dejected, beheld these rejoicings with indifference, so deeply was he imbued with the greatness and grandeur of his own enterprise.

The time had now arrived when the monarchs of Spain stood pledged to attend to his proposal of a western expedition. They kept their word and appointed persons, with full authority, to negotiate with him. For his services in the undertaking, Columbus demanded that he should be invested with the titles and privileges of

admiral and viceroy over the countries he should discover, together with one-tenth of the gains either by trade or conquest. In these negotiations he felt that he was treating of an empire and demanded princely conditions. His terms were refused, and many were indignant at what they considered the exorbitant demands of a needy adventurer. Other rewards were offered to him but he would not cede one point and the negotiations were broken off.

Nearly twenty years had elapsed since Columbus had first announced his theory of discovery in the West, during that time he had applied in vain to various courts, had suffered poverty, neglect, ridicule and disappointment, but nothing could shake his confidence in his theory or weaken his determination. In February, 1492, he set off for Cordova, with the intention of visiting France.

The friends of Columbus, filled with distress at his departure, and prompted by zeal in his cause, obtained an audience with the queen. They explained to her the irreparable loss that it would be to the nation to allow him to depart ; they pointed out the soundness and practicability

of his plans ; and they assured her that it was not only worth the trouble and expense but that it was her duty to explore the wonders and the secrets of the universe. The generous spirit of Isabella was enkindled and she declared with enthusiasm, "I undertake the enterprise and will pledge my jewels to raise the necessary funds." Columbus had pursued his lonely journey about two leagues from Granada when he was overtaken by a courier from the queen, who summoned him to return. He hesitated, but being informed of Isabella's promise, he returned confiding in her noble and generous character. The benignity with which Columbus was received on his return, atoned for all past neglect.

A perfect understanding was arrived at, articles of agreement were drawn up and signed by the king and queen in which the titles, dignities and prerogatives of viceroy and admiral were confirmed and made hereditary in his family. The kindly Isabella conferred a favor on Columbus before he left the court that pleased him very much. She appointed his son, Diego, page to Prince Juan, the heir apparent, an honor

granted only to the sons of persons of distinguished rank. Thus the sordid, calculating policy of Ferdinand was counteracted by the generosity and grandeur of a woman's noble nature. To Isabella, Spain owes her share in the discovery of the New World.



## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE ADMIRAL HOISTS HIS FLAG.

FITTING OUT A FLEET.—THREE CARAVELS  
AND ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY MEN.—  
THIRD OF AUGUST 1492.—DELAY AT THE  
CANARIES.—ON THE ATLANTIC.—DIFFICUL-  
TIES, DANGERS AND DISTURBANCE.—MYSTERY  
OF THE OCEAN SOLVED.—LAND, AHEAD!

COLUMBUS hastened to his good friend, the prior of La Rabida, not as a mendicant, this time, but as the admiral, chosen by the sovereigns of Spain and authorized by them, to fit out a fleet and to command it, in a voyage of Western discovery. After years of vexatious delay, pinching poverty and continuous struggle, he was about to carry out, in his fifty-sixth year, the great object of his life's labor.

On the morning of the twenty-third of May, 1492, Columbus proceeded to the church of St. George, where the alcalde, the regidors and the inhabitants of Palos, had been notified to meet him. In the porch of the church a royal order was read, by a notary public, commanding them

to furnish ships and men and to place them at the disposal of Columbus ; and further orders were read instructing them to furnish supplies and assistance to him, at reasonable prices.

At first the authorities promised to obey, but when the nature of the expedition became known, dismay fell on the whole community. The owners of vessels refused to furnish them, and the boldest sailors shrank from a cruise on the unknown ocean. No stronger proof can be offered of the boldness of this undertaking than the extreme dread shown by this community made up of the bravest seamen of the age. At length Martin Alonzo Pinzon and his brother, both navigators of great experience, volunteered and others were compelled to serve, and by the beginning of August every difficulty had been overcome and three vessels were ready for sea.

The largest of the three caravels was decked and called the Santa Maria. On board this ship Columbus hoisted his flag. The second was called the Pinta and the third, the Nina. There were on board a physician, a surgeon, the royal notary, private adventurers, servants and ninety mariners, making in all one hundred and twenty

persons. Columbus and his crew entered upon their hazardous enterprise with the most devout and affecting religious ceremonials, committing themselves to the guidance and protection of heaven.

On the third of August, 1492, Columbus sailed from the little port of Palos, steering directly for the Canary Islands. His exultation at finding himself at last under way, was checked by his want of confidence in his crew. His apprehensions were correct. He was detained three weeks at the Canaries repairing the Pinta's rudder, which, he surmised, had been injured, in order that she might be sent back. On the sixth of September they left the Canaries and steered west across the unknown parts of the Atlantic. When his crew lost sight of land their hearts failed them. Behind them were country, family, friends and life; before them chaos, mystery and peril. The admiral tried to inspire them with his own glorious anticipations of a land teeming with gold and precious stones, nor were these hopes held out for mere purposes of deception, Columbus believed that they would realize them all.

The variation of the compass, which he first noticed about two hundred leagues west of the Canaries, filled his crew with fear of being left on the trackless ocean without a guide. Columbus taxed his science and his ingenuity to allay their fears but had only partial success. At one time the sight of a bird filled them with hope, then the flash of a meteor, struck them with awe; the trade winds prevailing from the east they thought would prevent them from ever returning. Fields of weeds one day were proofs of the nearness of land and the next they filled them with fear of certain destruction. The admiral with great patience tried to dispel these fears. Terror, however, multiplies and varies imaginary dangers, particularly on the ocean. They fed each other's discontent, and in secret they called him a desperado, bent upon making himself notorious. Every league traveled brought him nearer to the realization of his hopes, filled them with terror. Were they to sail on and be the authors of their own destruction? Why not throw him into the sea? The situation was daily becoming more critical, but Columbus maintained a severe and steady

countenance. He had overcome the difficulty of fitting out his fleet, had passed, so far, safely through ocean dangers, was he now to be thwarted by the disturbance of a mutinous crew?

“Land! land! I claim my reward, señor,” shouted a voice from the Pinta. The admiral, who had been studying his map, threw himself on his knees and the whole crew joined him in repeating the *Gloria in Excelsis*. The conviction became general and the joy excessive, but the morning light put an end to their hopes as to a dream, and as a consequence they sank into a dejection even greater than before. They said that they had done enough to show their courage and they insisted upon turning homeward and abandoning the voyage as hopeless. Columbus endeavored to pacify them but could not. He then assumed a bold and decided tone and told them that the expedition had been sent out by the Sovereigns of Spain and he was determined to persevere to the end. He was now at open defiance with his crew and the situation was desperate.

The next day, fortunately, the evidence of land in their immediate vicinity, no longer



admitted of doubt. After picking up a branch with berries on it, and then a staff artificially carved, Columbus made an impressive address. From present appearances, he said he thought it probable that they would make land that very night. Gloom and mutiny now gave way to hopes of discovery. At 2 o'clock in the morning a gun gave the joyful signal of land. The reaction was sudden, complete and extraordinary. The gloom and terror of the voyage was forgotten, and the sailors vied with each other in thanks and gratitude to their commander.

It would be difficult to conceive what were the thoughts of Columbus at such a moment. The great mystery of the ocean had been revealed, his theory had been triumphantly established and he had secured a glory as durable as the world itself; but what was the land before him covered with darkness—would the morning light reveal a savage wilderness or the gilded cities of Oriental civilization?

## CHAPTER IX.

### COLUMBUS IN THE NEW WORLD.

TWELFTH OF OCTOBER, 1492.—SAN SALVADOR.—  
NAKED BUT HOSPITABLE SAVAGES.—SEARCH  
FOR CIPANGO.—GOLDEN DREAMS.—HAMACS.—  
NATIVE CIGARS.—SHIPWRECK.—A FORTRESS  
BUILT.—LEFT IN AN UNKNOWN LAND.

**I**T was on Friday morning, the twelfth of October, 1492, that Columbus first beheld the New World. He saw as the day dawned, a level island, several leagues in extent, covered with trees, and although it was uncultivated, it was inhabited. Richly attired in scarlet and carrying the standard of Spain, he landed and solemnly took possession and gave the island the name of San Salvador.

The natives beheld the ships with astonishment and supposed them to be monsters but when they saw the boats approach the shore and a number of strange beings clad in garments of various colors or in shining armour, they fled in terror. To the Spaniards the natives were no

less objects of curiosity. They were copper-colored with agreeable features, disfigured by paint; they were well shaped, of moderate stature, had long coarse hair and were perfectly naked. The only weapons they had were lances pointed with flint or bone. They were friendly and gentle and after they recovered from their first terror they approached the Spaniards with timidity and admiration. Columbus supposed that he had landed at the extremity of India, and called the natives Indians, a name which has since been extended to all the aboriginals of the New World.

The admiral having examined the island, distributed beads and small bells to the natives, set off on the fourteenth, taking seven of the natives with him, that they might learn the Spanish language and serve as interpreters. The next day Columbus took possession of an island to which he gave the name of Santa Maria de la Concepcion. The natives manifested the same astonishment, gentleness, and simplicity as those of San Salvador, but they appeared to be more ingenious and intelligent. Their habitations were constructed in the form

of circular tents, made of branches of trees and palm leaves. They were kept very neat and clean and were usually sheltered under spreading trees. For beds they used nets of cotton, which extended from two posts. They called them hamacs, a name which has since come into general use.

Next he visited an island which he named Fernandina, in honor of the king. "The country," says Columbus, "was fresh and green as Andalusia in the month of May." Cotton was the article of the greatest value, and the natives as in the other islands seemed to enjoy their simple mode of life.

Sailing south, according to the directions of his native guides, in search of a mine of gold and a monarch of vast wealth, he found an island of great beauty, but neither mine nor monarch. Here he saw birds of great variety and beauty, trees of a thousand species, and an abundance of fishes which rivaled the birds in the brilliancy of their color. To this island he gave the name of his royal patroness, Isabella.

For several days the admiral coasted about seeking in vain for the wealthy island of

Cipango, described by Marco Polo. From the natives he heard of an island called Cuba, which he concluded to visit, and after exploring it he would go to the mainland of India, which he thought must be within easy distance. He would there deliver in person to the Grand Khan, the letters of the Spanish Monarchs and then return to Spain triumphantly, having accomplished the great object of his voyage. He thought that he was on the eastern shores of India, as Asia was then called, whereas he was on the shores of a new continent.

After four days' sail from Isabella, they arrived at an island of vast size with high mountains, fertile valleys, and noble rivers. Here he landed and gave it the name of Juana in honor of prince Juan. He no longer doubted that it was the looked for Cipango. His desire now was to find its magnificent city and its wealthy king. One of the natives told him that there was a place in the interior abounding with gold. Anxious to reach there he sent two envoys to seek the monarch and present to him letters and presents from the monarchs of Spain. At the present day many will smile at this



embassy to a naked savage chieftain in Cuba, in mistake for an Oriental potentate, but such was this voyage, a series of golden dreams, built on the deluding volume of Marco Polo.

On this island, the mariners found the potato, little valued at that time, but a more precious acquisition to man than many of the rare spices of the East. Here they also saw the natives with certain dried herbs which they rolled up in a leaf, and lighting one end put the other in their mouths and puff out the smoke. A roll of this kind they called a tobacco, a name since given to the plant of which the roll was made.

When the two ambassadors returned their report put an end to many of the splendid fancies of Columbus. They informed him that there was no appearance of gold or gems, they saw fields of potatoes, maize or Indian corn and large quantities of cotton. From Cuba the admiral turned back ; had he continued his course he might have discovered Florida or Mexico, certainly he would have found his mistake in considering Cuba as a portion of the mainland.

When Columbus left Cuba, his signals were unattended to by the *Pinta*, which was consid-

erably to the eastward. He suspected that her commander, Pinzon, either intended to take upon himself a separate command or to hasten back to Spain and carry off the glory of the discovery.

While steering beyond the extremity of Cuba the admiral descried land, the general features of which he thought resembled Spain, hence he called it Hispaniola. The natives came to the ships in their canoes, bringing presents from the cacique and a friendly invitation to visit him. About midnight, Christmas eve, the sea being calm the admiral retired to rest. The steersman taking advantage of his absence gave the helm to one of the ship boys and went to sleep. The current soon carried the ship on a sandbank. Columbus was the first on deck but it was too late to save her. When the cacique heard of the misfortune of his guest he sent the natives in their canoes to his assistance. All the ship's effects were saved but she became a total wreck. The rites of hospitality were scrupulously observed and houses were built to shelter the seamen.

The shipwrecked crew grew fond of their easy

and idle mode of life on the island. They told the admiral that, from the wreck they could construct a fortress and maintain themselves for a year, until he returned from Spain. Since the desertion of one vessel and the wreck of another had left him but one old caravel, he determined to return to Spain, lest some disaster would destroy every record of his discovery.

In ten days the fort was completed. Ammunition was stored in the vault and the guns were mounted on the tower. Columbus selected thirty-nine of his best men to remain on the island, among them a carpenter, a physician, a tailor and a gunner. The admiral made an earnest address to them on their duties. The parting was a painful one between the little garrison and their companions who were returning home. The signal gun was fired, the anchor weighed, the ship's crew gave a parting cheer, and left their companions in the wilderness of an unknown world, where they became the first victims of European greed and lust, in the New World; and the first holocaust offered to Indian revenge.

## CHAPTER X.

### “SEE, THE CONQUERING HERO COMES.”

HOMeward VOYAGE.—VIOLENT STORMS.—A  
MESSAGE FROM THE SEA.—ARRIVAL AT THE  
AZORES.—JEALOUSY OF THE PORTUGUESE.—  
RECEPTION AT PALOS.—A ROMAN TRIUMPH.  
—COAT-OF-ARMS AND A LEGEND.

IT was on the fourth of January, 1493, that Columbus set sail on his homeward voyage, during which he met with storms of such violence, that had but one-tenth part of them attended him in his outward voyage, he never would have discovered the new world. When they had been out two days they sighted the Pinta, whose captain informed the admiral that stress of weather and not wilful desertion had separated the ships.

On the ninth they anchored in an extensive bay. Here they found the natives of ferocious aspect and hideously painted ; they were armed

with war clubs, bows and swords made of palm wood, as heavy as iron. When a boat was sent ashore, the crew was attacked by a band of fifty natives. The Spaniards wounded two and put the rest to flight. This is the first record of native blood shed by white men in the new world. Columbus gave this place the name of the Gulf of Arrows ; it is now the Gulf of Samana.

A few days after leaving this gulf, they were caught in a violent wind and heavy sea and it was with the greatest difficulty and danger that they continued their course. The frail caravels labored terribly and they were obliged to take in all sail. The Pinta again was lost sight of. Columbus feared that she had foundered and that his own feeble bark might at any moment be engulfed. He wrote an account of his discoveries, placed it in a barrel, which he flung into the sea, in the hope that it would reach the Spanish coast ; and both he and his crew made a vow, that if spared, they would go in procession barefooted when they landed to some church dedicated to the Holy Virgin.

On the morning of the fifteenth of February they sighted land in the east-north-east. It was



St. Mary's, one of the Azores. The governor at first treated them kindly and sent fresh provisions on board, but when half the crew went ashore to perform their pilgrimage to the chapel of the island, he had them arrested. Columbus was indignant and produced his letters patent showing his rank and dignity as a Spanish admiral and viceroy. After examining the papers, the Portuguese governor liberated the prisoners. Such was the discoverer's first reception in the old world, forming a striking contrast to sympathy and hospitality he received from the naked savages of the new world.

After putting to sea, the admiral again encountered contrary gales and a boisterous sea and was driven by the violence of the storm, with all his sails rent, into the mouth of the Tagus. He immediately sent a courier to the monarchs of Spain with tidings of his discovery. He also wrote to the king of Portugal. Curiosity became excited and boats and barges crowded round the caravel, freighted with the people and the productions of a newly discovered world.

While in Portugal Columbus visited the king, who received him with great ceremony. Many



of the courtiers present at the reception were those who had only a few months before scoffed at him as a dreamer and now they considered the honors heaped upon him a humiliation to them. This was an indication of the perpetual jealousy with which Columbus was to be requited throughout his life for one of the greatest benefits that ever man conferred upon his fellow beings. Some went so far as to suggest his assassination. Provoke him into a quarrel, said they, and then dispatch him as if in honorable encounter. Others suggested that Portuguese mariners should be sent out before he could fit out a second expedition. The latter advice the king secretly but promptly resolved to put into execution.

After an absence of nearly seven months and a half, Columbus arrived at the little seaport of Palos, on the fifteenth of March, 1493, amid the shouts and acclamations of the people. Bells were rung, stores were closed and a holiday observed; and in a transport of joy and gratitude they formed a procession to the church to return thanks for the wonderful discovery.

The letter of Columbus produced a great sen-

sation at the Spanish Court. Western discovery, following so closely on the conquest of Granada, dazzled even the monarchs themselves, by the acquisition of a new empire of indefinite extent and boundless wealth. Columbus received an invitation to the court addressed to him by the title of "Don Christopher Columbus, our Admiral of the Ocean Sea, and Viceroy and Governor of the Islands discovered in the Indies."

The fame of his discovery had spread through the nation, and his journey to the court was like the progress of a monarch. His entry into Barcelona has been compared to a Roman triumph. The procession was headed by the Indians, painted according to their savage fashion, and decorated with their rude ornaments of gold; after these came birds, animals, plants and the gold brought from the newly discovered islands. Columbus, on horseback, surrounded by a cavalcade of Spanish noblemen, was greeted as a conquering hero. To receive him with suitable pomp, the throne was placed in public, under a rich canopy of brocade of gold. When the admiral approached, the king and queen arose, as if receiving a person of the highest rank, and

ordered him to seat himself in their presence, a rare honor in this proud and punctilious court. When he had given an account of his expedition, the sovereigns went on their knees, and all present followed their example, while the *Te Deum* was chanted by the choir of the royal chapel. Columbus was the object of universal praise, and wherever he appeared he was surrounded by an admiring multitude.

Notwithstanding the universal enthusiasm, no one was aware of the real importance of the discovery ; no one knew that this was a totally distinct portion of the globe, separated by oceans from the ancient world. The erroneous opinion of the discoverer was universally adopted, that Cuba was the extreme end of the Asiatic continent, and that the adjacent islands were in the Indian seas. The lands were therefore called the West Indies, and as they were unknown to the ancients, they were called the New World.

Columbus received instructions to prepare for a second voyage, and he lost no time in making out a memorandum of the ships, men and supplies necessary. During his stay at Barcelona, the admiral had access at all times to the royal

presence, and marks of personal favor were constantly bestowed upon him.

To perpetuate in his family the glory of his achievements, a coat-of-arms was assigned him, in which the royal arms, a castle and a lion, were quartered, with his proper bearings, which were a group of islands surrounded by waves and the motto: "To Castile and Leon, Columbus gave a new world."

It would be well, for the credit of the human race, had the story of Columbus ended here. No greatness was ever acquired by more incontestable benefits conferred on mankind, yet none ever drew on its possessor more unremitting jealousy, or involved him in more unmerited distress and difficulty.

## CHAPTER XI.

### IN THE SUNSHINE OF ROYAL FAVOR.

SECOND VOYAGE.—INDIA HOUSE.—A MOTLEY CROWD.—THE ANCHOR WEIGHED.—MASSACRE AT LA NAVIDAD.—AMONG THE CARIBS.—THE FIRST CITY.—A STAIN ON THE ESCUTCHEON.

AFTER receiving every mark of royal favor and public honor, and having his titles and prerogatives confirmed, Columbus left the court on the twenty-eight of May, to prepare for a second voyage. His departure from Barcelona, like his entry, was made the occasion of every demonstration of honor, gratitude and confidence.

To assist Columbus in his preparations, and to regulate the transaction of business with the new world, Juan Rodriquez de Fonseca, a high ecclesiastical dignitary, was appointed to superintend Indian affairs. This position he held for nearly thirty years. An office and custom-house was established at Seville for this purpose



and was the origin of the Royal India House. Fonseca early became a secret but active opponent of the admiral and frequently impeded the progress of his expeditions.

Columbus hastened to Andalusia where he secured a fleet of seventeen ships which were prepared with speed for the expedition. The pilots and seamen were chosen with great care; mechanics and husbandmen were engaged; horses, cattle and domestic animals of all kinds were provided; and an abundant supply of provisions, seeds and merchandise were taken on board.

The number of persons permitted to embark was fully twelve hundred. The war with the Moors being over, many restless spirits were eager for employment; the account of a land teeming with gold and gems excited the cupidity of others; to all was open a vast field for wild adventure and romantic enterprise. Probably no fleet ever carried so motley a crowd. The hardy mariner, the punctilious cavalier, the roving adventurer, the greedy speculator, the industrious husbandman and the pale and pious missionary, each earnest in his vocation, were there.



Enterprise, ambition, novelty, profit and religious zeal, each had its representative.

The departure of Columbus on his second voyage was very different from his departure on the first. Now all was confidence and animation, then all was gloom and fear. On the twenty-fifth of September, 1493, three large ships and fourteen caravels, answered the admiral's signal by weighing anchor and before sunrise the whole fleet was under sail from the Bay of Cadiz to the New World.

About the first of October the fleet arrived at the Canaries. Having taken in a supply of water and provisions, the voyage was resumed on the seventh. The commander of each ship received from Columbus a sealed letter of instructions to be opened only in case of separation. The voyage was prosperous and without any incident of note.

On Sunday, the third of November, land was sighted. On account of the day on which it was discovered, it was called Dominica. Not finding good anchorage here Columbus continued his voyage through the archipelago, until he reached the island to which he gave

the name of Guadaloupe. This he found to be one of the islands of the Caribs, a fierce and warlike tribe that made war on the inhabitants of the neighboring islands. These predatory savages were the terror of the seas, and from human bones found in their houses, the Spaniards were convinced that they were cannibals.

As the fleet sailed further through this beautiful archipelago, many islands rose to view and were taken possession of by the Spaniards. The admiral sent a boat, well-manned, on shore at Santa Cruz to get water and gather information. While at the village, which was deserted, they saw a canoe arrive in view of the ships. The Indians, in the canoe, were so amazed and entranced by the sight of the ships, that the Spaniards in the boat came close to them, unperceived. The Indians attempted to escape, but failing they used their bows with the dexterity of trained archers. There were two women in the canoe, who fought as fiercely as the men. When the canoe was capsized the savages continued to fight while swimming and discharged their arrows, with as much effect and facility as if on land. In this skirmish these fierce Caribs

used poisoned arrows and one of the Spaniards died from a slight wound by a poisoned arrow.

Continuing his course, the admiral arrived at a great island, since known as Porto Rico. It was fertile and populous but during the visit of the fleet not a human being was seen. After a couple of days at this island, Columbus sailed for Hispaniola, where he arrived on the twenty-second of November.

The ferocity of the Caribs, who were the terror of the natives, made the admiral anxious about his companions of the first voyage, who were left at La Navidad. Having arrived opposite the fort he anchored and as it was night he ordered signal guns to be fired but there was no response. All was darkness and deathlike silence. The next day the fortress was found in ruins and presented the appearance of having been sacked and burned. The story learned from the natives and afterwards confirmed was, briefly, the Spaniards had quarrelled and separated, those in the fort had been surprised and massacred and those who had strayed away met a like fate. So ended the first Spanish colony of the New World.

To build a city and to found a settlement,

Columbus considered his first and most important duty and as he could not find a favorable location where he now was he determined to go to La Plata. Stress of weather, however, obliged him to put into a harbor before he reached there, and the natural advantages that the locality presented convinced him that he could not find a place more suitable for his purpose. The soil was fertile, the climate temperate and a plain of great extent and verdure was watered by two rivers which flowed into the spacious harbour.

An encampment was formed, and in a few days the whole scene was one of great activity ; stores and merchandise were landed, artisans were busy, streets and squares were laid out and a church, storehouse and dwellings were erected ; every one exerted himself in building the first Spanish city of the New World, which, in honor of his patroness, Columbus named Isabella.

The arduous duties and incessant vigilance imposed on Columbus at this time overpowered his strength and for several weeks he was confined to his bed. He was therefore prevented from personally exploring the interior of the country as he had intended. From amongst the

cavaliers who had accompanied the expedition, he chose Alonzo de Ojeda, a daring soldier and a man of great personal endowment, to explore the interior of the island. The information was necessary as he was about to send back ten of his ships to Spain and he felt sure that the report of the expedition would confirm the statements which he had already made to the Spanish monarchs. Ojeda set out with a small force and struck directly into the interior, where the natives received them with kindness and hospitality. They saw evidence of gold in the streams and mountains, and received many presents of the precious metal. Ojeda's report confirmed the admiral's conjectures of the wealth of the country.

Twelve of the ships were sent to Spain, carrying specimens of the gold, found by Ojeda, with an account of the expedition and the labors of the colony in founding the city of Isabella. In his letters to the sovereigns, Columbus proposes to establish an exchange, where the Carib captives could be bartered as slaves to those who would furnish live stock to the colony. The admiral yielded to this practice of the time in



hope of lessening the expense of the colony and improving the cannibal natives. The sophistry of improving the savage by enslaving him in a Christian country, has been productive of the most pernicious results. Many circumstances tend to mitigate the brutality of this proposition, nothing can fully excuse it.

## CHAPTER XII.

### THE PARADISE OF THE INDIAN.

PURSUIT OF GOLD.—DISCONTENT AND MUTINY.—  
DISCOVERY OF JAMAICA.—THE CACIQUE'S  
BRACELETS.—CALUMNIATORS AT COURT.—  
AQUADO'S ARROGANT ASSUMPTION.—VOYAGE  
HOME.

COLUMBUS having dispatched the greater part of his fleet to Spain, and having recovered from his recent illness determined to make an excursion into the interior of the country, partly for the purpose of impressing the natives by an exhibition of European power, but principally for the purpose of opening up with the new city commercial relations and making it the depot of the golden products of the country. The admiral took with him four hundred well armed men. The rude road, constructed during this expedition from Isabella across the mountain of Ciboá, still exists. He was hospitably received by the natives, and having informed

himself fully of the country and its products, he built a fort, placed in it a garrison of fifty-six men, and gave it in command to Pedro Margarite. This was the first important visit of white men to the interior, and the first step in the march of civilization into the luxuriant paradise of the Indian.

The city of Isabella was now assuming form, but the exposure and privation, inevitable in the new colony, produced sickness and discontent. Many were disappointed in their hopes of immediate wealth, and annoyed with the labors imposed upon them; some of the most daring even resolved to seize the ships in the harbor and return to Spain. This mutiny was discovered by the admiral and the ring leaders punished. Columbus then sent all the men that could be spared to visit the Caciques and explore their territories, and he determined to make further expeditions with the fleet. It was on this voyage that he took possession of a vast and lofty island, to which he gave the name of Santiago, but which has retained its Indian name of Jamaica.

The Indians, led by Caonabo, a warlike and

fearless Cacique, descended from the Caribs, gave the colony at this time much trouble. Ojeda, who led the expedition into the interior some time before, offered to capture him and deliver him into the hands of Columbus. He selected ten bold horsemen and started for the Cacique's territory. He found Caonabo, whom he approached with great respect, as if paying a friendly visit. He invited him to visit Isabella and was astonished to find that though the wily chieftain consented, he did so only in company with a powerful force of his warriors. After several days' march, Ojeda persuaded the Cacique to mount a war-horse and to adorn himself with what he assured him were regal ornaments, but which were highly polished manacles. Caonabo fell into the trap and Ojeda rode with him in triumph to Isabella and delivered him into the hands of the admiral. The capture of this chieftain led to a war with the Indians which ended by the viceroy imposing tribute.

Four ships brought from Spain an ample supply of provisions, and an invitation from the sovereigns asking Columbus to return to Spain and assist them with his advice in adjusting the

claims of Portugal to the lately discovered lands. Columbus was unable to go, but he determined to send his brother Diego, with letters and all the gold he could collect. He also sent about five hundred Indian prisoners, whom he suggested might be sold as slaves. The custom of the times only can be pleaded in extenuation of this act.

Many of those who returned to Spain, disappointed and discontented, accused Columbus of deceiving the monarchs by extravagant statements and charged him with cruelty to the common people and of treating with indignity Spanish gentlemen of rank. Friar Boyle and Commander Margarite, each of whom deserted his post of duty, were active in this endeavor to lessen the popularity of Columbus. To some extent they were successful.

The result of the calumniations was that the king instructed Juan Aquado to visit the colony and there collect information as to the government of Columbus, the conduct of persons in office and if any abuses existed, the measures by which they could be remedied. Aquado had been recommended by Columbus to the sover-



eigns, and he was appointed by them as a mark of confidence in the viceroy. Aquado not only forgot his gratitude, but mistook the nature of his commission, and instead of collecting information, assumed an air of arrogant authority. Columbus was, at this time, in the interior of the island. When he returned he found that the assumed authority of Aquado had increased the discontent, and that every culprit in the colony had become an accuser. He resolved to go immediately to Spain.

He set out on the tenth of March, 1496, with two caravels into which he crowded two hundred and twenty-five persons. After working his way slowly against the trade-winds and suffering much from want of provisions, he arrived in the Bay of Cadiz, on the eleventh of June. Soon after his arrival the admiral received an invitation to the court, where he was received with distinguished favor.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### A PRISONER IN CHAINS.

PROJECTED ENTERPRISES.—THIRD VOYAGE.—  
CRIMINALS FOR COLONISTS.—A GLIMPSE OF  
THE CONTINENT.—ROLDAN'S REBELLION.—  
BOBADILLA APPOINTED COMMISSIONER.—CO-  
LUMBUS A PRISONER.

AT court, Columbus gave not only an account of the discoveries that he had made, during his voyage, but he also gave in detail a statement of the enterprises which he proposed to make in the future, in which he was confident of making even more important and more extensive discoveries. For that purpose he asked for ships and supplies. This request the sovereigns promised to comply with, but the king lavished the revenues in operations, which were of more importance to the ambitious monarch than the acquisition of distant and uncultivated islands. It had taken Columbus many years to convince princes that there was undiscovered land, and

now that it had been discovered he seemed to have almost equal trouble to prove to them the advantages of it.

The proposals of Columbus were postponed and neglected until the spring of 1497, even then it was with difficulty that he procured ships or men. The difficulty of finding volunteers led to the adoption of a measure that was a fruitful source of trouble. The sentences of criminals were commuted and they were taken to the new settlements. The death of Prince Juan, and the enmity of Fonseca, combined to delay and embarrass Columbus.

At length, on the thirtieth of May, 1498, he set sail with a squadron of six vessels and took a course much further to the south than he had done in his previous voyages. The weather was cloudy and oppressive, the seams of his ships were leaky, provisions were spoiled and the supply of water almost exhausted when, fortunately, at the end of July, land was seen ahead. The three high peaks of one mountain suggested its name to Columbus who called it La Trinidad, which it still bears.

While coasting around the newly discovered

island, Columbus got a glimpse of the continent, but supposing it to be an island, he gave it the name of La Isla Santa. Like another great leader of men, he viewed from a distance the Promised Land which he was doomed never to enter ; but unlike the Hebrew lawgiver, he knew not on what he gazed and was deprived of the pleasure which that knowledge would have afforded him.

When Columbus returned to Spain, two and a half years before, he appointed his brother, Don Bartholomew, Adelantado, a title equivalent to deputy-governor. Bartholomew brought the natives into subjection by sagacious management, but the European colony presented a continual scene of misery and discontent. Great trouble was made by Francisco Roldan, a man who was under great obligations to the admiral, who from obscurity had raised him to the position of alcalde, or justice of the peace.

Roldan gathered around him the vicious and the discontented and increased his forces by promises of free living and of sensual enjoyment among the Indians. Emboldened by success he threw off all allegiance to the government. The

adelantado was in desperate straits but the timely arrival of troops and provisions from Spain enabled him to check the conspiracy.

When Columbus arrived he found the natives in revolt, incited and directed by the ungrateful alcalde. Hordes of savages in war paint, under the crafty influence of Roldan and his lieutenants, threatened the young colony with destruction. Columbus, conscious of the danger threatened by the insurgents, made terms with Roldan and his followers, to whom he made grants of land. Roldan he reinstated in office.

Four ships, under the command of Alonzo de Ojeda, the daring cavalier who distinguished himself by the capture of Caonabo, arrived secretly at the western part of the island. The crafty character of Roldan pointed him out as a suitable person to ascertain the objects of Ojeda's visit. After many interviews between these wily antagonists, it was ascertained that Ojeda had been authorized by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Fonseca, to explore the rich lands before Columbus could reach them, with the hope of thus lessening the glory of the discoverer.



While the admiral was engaged with the affairs of the colony and allaying disturbance in the island, his enemies at home, headed by Fonseca, were making accusations and insinuations against him at court. Ferdinand was convinced, Isabella doubted, and they resolved to send out some person of ability and honesty to investigate. Columbus had recently sent home many of the followers of Roldan, who, when leaving the island, induced some of the young native women to accompany them. They reported on their arrival in Spain, that the admiral had given them the women. The womanly nature of Isabella was shocked at the outrage of handing these innocent natives over to lewd and irresponsible men. "What power," she indignantly exclaimed, "has the admiral to give away my vassals?"

Don Francisco de Bobadilla was chosen to make an investigation of the government of the new colony and of the conduct of Columbus and his brothers, and, if the charges against them were proved, he was to divest them of the command.

Diego Columbus was in command at San

Domingo and the admiral and Don Bartholomew, were at Fort Conception, when Bobadilla arrived. He announced himself as Royal Commissioner, sent to investigate the affairs of the colony. The next day he ordered his letters patent to be read, and demanded from all present obedience, and from Diego the surrender of all fortresses, prisoners and royal property. These Diego refused to give up without authority from the viceroy. This refusal incensed Bobadilla, who attacked the fortress, which had no garrison, entered in triumph and took possession of the prisoners. This arrogant assumption of office, he followed up by taking possession of the admiral's house and seizing everything in it, even private papers.

When tidings reached the admiral of these insulting and high-handed proceedings, he wrote to Bobadilla, cautioning him against hasty measures, assuring him that he was about to go to Spain and would leave him in command. He soon after started, almost alone, for San Domingo. When he arrived he was arrested, put in irons and placed in solitary confinement in the fortress, by order of the commissioner. Diego

and Bartholomew were also imprisoned. No charges were made, no inquiry instituted and no opportunity for defense offered, and the prisoners were cut off from intercourse with each other, and from all communication with their friends.

This violence and indignity offered to Columbus and his brothers, by the royal commissioner, may be set down to a false estimate of his delegated authority, but the extensive and undefined powers conferred on him by the crown, seem to point to him as the agent of Ferdinand's jealousy and ingratitude.

Columbus had been for a long time in declining health, and his imprisonment was, under the circumstances, exceptionally cruel and produced a state of chronic melancholy and deep despondency. When the officer appointed to take him to Spain came to conduct him to the ship, Columbus feared that it was to the scaffold, but when he was assured that he was to sail immediately for Spain, he was much pleased and felt like one restored to life.

Early in October, 1500, shackled like a malefactor, amid the scoffs of the rabble, Columbus departed from the shores of the island which he

had so recently added to the civilized world. The master of the caravel, on which he sailed would have taken off his irons, but to this the admiral would not consent. "No," said he, "their majesties commanded me, by letter, to obey Bobadilla, he has put upon me these chains, I will wear them until they order them taken off, and then I will keep them as memorials of the reward of my services."

## CHAPTER XIV.

### LAST VOYAGE OF THE ADMIRAL.

THE AGED PRISONER IN SPAIN.—INDIGNATION  
AND SYMPATHY.—ISABELLA IN TEARS.—THE  
AGED MARINER'S DEFENSE. —INGRATITUDE  
OF THE KING.—THE PHANTOM STRAIT.—  
FATE OF THE ENEMIES OF COLUMBUS.

**A**N old man, dignified in demeanor, venerable by age and wasted by sickness, was landed in Cadiz, a prisoner in chains. This reputed malefactor excited the curiosity of the crowd ; but when they recognized the discoverer of the New World, their idol of eight years ago, their indignation was even greater than their astonishment. Tidings of the indignities and sufferings of Columbus reached the court at Granada, and there the sensation was as great and the sympathy as generous as that of the populace. The alcalde, into whose custody he had been delivered by order of Bobadilla, treated the admiral with great kindness and respect, while awaiting the orders of the monarchs.



The kindly heart of Isabella was full of sympathy, Ferdinand, however he might secretly feel against Columbus, could not resist the tide of popular feeling, and without waiting for any documents from Bobadilla, orders were sent to have the prisoner instantly set at liberty. The sovereigns declared that his imprisonment had been without authority, and contrary to their wishes; to Columbus, they wrote in affectionate terms, expressing their grief at what had happened, and inviting him to the court.

On the seventeenth of December, 1500, Columbus presented himself at court where he was received with every mark of respect and honor. At the sight of the aged mariner the kindly queen burst into tears. Columbus threw himself on his knees and his emotions were so great that he could not utter a word. When he regained self-possession, he entered into an eloquent defense of his conduct and an able vindication of his loyalty to the Spanish crown; he told of his zeal for its interests, and of the services he had rendered. The sovereigns declared their indignation at the conduct of Bobadilla, who, they informed Columbus, would be

immediately dismissed from their service and they assured the admiral, that he would be reinstated in all his titles, dignities and privileges.

This reception of Columbus at court made amends for the many insults and sufferings he had endured. He had implicit confidence in the promise of his sovereigns, but he was doomed to disappointment. The politic, cold-hearted Ferdinand, delayed the promised restitution and his neglect and ingratitude, threw a gloom over the last years of a life that had shed a lustre on the Spanish throne, more glorious than would the conquests of an Alexander and as lasting as the eternal mountains of the world.

Public and private ~~exp~~editions to the new world had been undertaken either by order or with the consent of the king, while Columbus was engaged in the new colony. Not only were there Spanish explorers but foreign enterprises were also numerous. Columbus had shown the way and a swarm of adventurers followed. The boundless regions opened up inflamed the avarice of Ferdinand to whom the titles and emoluments granted to Columbus became daily more repugnant. Able navigators were willing to fit

out private expeditions, at their own cost, and to yield a large share of the profits to the crown. Columbus was no longer necessary to the ungrateful monarch, who, therefore, delayed reinstating him.

To convince Columbus that such delay was necessary, the king sent a man of talent and discretion to supersede Bobadilla in the governorship, and to investigate the recent disorders, after which Columbus should resume the command. The person chosen was Don Nicholas de Ovando, a man of prudence and experience, but who, in his transactions with Columbus, was both ungenerous and unjust. His instructions were to send Bobadilla home immediately and to enter at once upon the exercise of his office as governor.

Ovando was conveyed by the largest fleet that had yet sailed to the New World. It consisted of thirty ships and twenty-five hundred men. This fleet put to sea on the thirteenth of February, 1502. After a stormy voyage, in which one ship was lost, they arrived at San Domingo on the fifteenth of April.

Columbus was detained in Spain, inactive,

when the accounts of new discoveries were the theme of every tongue. He desired now to make a voyage round the southern coast of Cuba, to find the strait which he believed existed there, and which led into the Indian Sea. If he could discover this passage he would connect the New World he had discovered with the wealthy cities of the east, and close, with this magnificent achievement, the labors of his life.

This scheme aroused the cupidity of Ferdinand and he authorized an expedition to be fitted out in the autumn of 1501. The preparations for this voyage went on but slowly, and it was on the ninth of May, 1502, that Columbus, then in his sixty-sixth year, set sail on his fourth and last voyage to the New World. His squadron consisted of four caravels of from fifty to seventy tons each, and carried about one hundred and fifty men, including his son, Fernando, and his brother, Bartholomew.

Columbus arrived off San Domingo on the twenty-ninth of June, and immediately sent one of his captains to Ovando to ask permission to enter the harbor. He excused himself for doing so, on the ground that one of his caravels was

unseaworthy, and further, that he apprehended a storm and desired to shelter. Ovando refused permission.

Bobadilla, Roldan and a number of their followers were in the port preparing to sail to Spain.

They scoffed at the prediction of the admiral and hurried out to sea. In less than two days, their fleet was caught in a tempest that burst on it with awful fury. Many of the ships were lost, some returned in a shattered condition and only one continued her voyage to Spain. Bobadilla, Roldan and many of the admiral's most inveterate enemies perished in this storm.

The poor, leaky caravels of Columbus suffered severely during this terrible storm, but owing to the timely precautions taken by the admiral and the experienced seamanship of the Adelantado, they weathered the gale. Having repaired his ships, the admiral resumed his expedition.



## CHAPTER XV.

“THE DAYS ARE DARK AND DREARY.”

YUCATAN AND MÉXICO.—A FRUITLESS SEARCH.  
—FORTRESS IN THE SEA.—PERILOUS VOY-  
AGE IN A CANOE.—A TIMELY ECLIPSE.—  
MUTINY.—A YEAR ON A WRECK.—RESCUED.

**S**MARTING under the insult of his imprisonment, grieved by the neglect of his sovereign, and irritated by Ovando's insulting refusal, Columbus left San Domingo in pursuit of the phantom strait, the discovery of which was to close his laborious and useful career. The search was vain and the voyage disastrous. Buffeted by storms, starving in leaky ships, refused provisions by the natives, threatened by his crew and disabled by infirmity, the aged admiral suffered, in his last voyage, from anxiety, danger, hunger, mutiny and bodily pain.

“The hopes of youth fall thick in the blast,  
And the days are dark and dreary.”

Columbus, after leaving San Domingo, in a

few days reached a group of islands off the coast of Honduras. Had he continued his journey west, he would have arrived at Yucatan, Mexico would have been disclosed to him, and he would have made such discoveries as would have shed a fresh glory on his old age, but he followed a southeast course, however, and encountered continual and violent storms. He visited many islands, the natives of which he found to be superior in their manners and customs to those he had previously seen. He was disappointed in his search for the strait that he hoped would connect him with the cities of Asia, and he re-resolved instead to seek for the vast gold mines of which the natives had informed him.

The little fleet of Columbus was in very bad condition, and the continual storms in the tropics, to which it had been exposed, made him anxious to find a harbor of refuge. The ships were soon after anchored at the mouth of the Veragua, and while they were being repaired, the Adelantado, with sixty-eight men, proceeded up the river in boats and explored an extensive tract of the country. He returned with much gold but did not find the rich mines for which he was looking,

It was decided to found a colony here as Columbus believed that it was the richest country he had visited. "I have seen more signs of gold," he writes, "in two days than in Hispaniola in four years." When the houses were built, eighty men were selected to remain, and the ships prepared to depart. The colony, however, was doomed to disaster and was soon obliged to withdraw, after much loss and great suffering. It was with difficulty that the admiral succeeded in taking the survivors and their effects on board the ships.

After another struggle with the elements, the shattered ships were taken into Port Santa Gloria, where the admiral ordered that they should be run aground. He had them lashed together and as they filled with water, he erected cabins on the prow and stern for the crews. The supply of provisions was soon exhausted and he had to depend on the natives for food. The ships were beyond repair, and the only hope was to send a message to Ovando, governor of Hispaniola, asking for assistance. Diego Mendez volunteered on this perilous journey in a canoe, probably the most dangerous ever undertaken by any man for

the safety of his comrades. Shut up in a wreck, on the shore of a remote and savage island, forty-eight of his crew mutinied and left the wreck, under the leadership of Francisco de Porras, one of the captains. Many threats were made and were it not for the bravery of Don Bartholomew, the admiral would have been brutally treated.

Provisions began to grow scarce as the Indians brought in only small quantities. Later they refused any supplies and starvation was inevitable. An interpreter was sent to the Caciques of the neighborhood inviting them to a conference with the admiral, who knowing that the time of an eclipse of the moon was near, determined to use that knowledge to frighten the savages. When they assembled, he told them that the great Deity was angry with them for refusing to supply his followers with provisions but that before punishing them, he would give them a last warning that very night: the moon would change its color and lose its light; and that if they neglected the warning, terrible punishment would follow. The eclipse had the desired effect and a plentiful supply of provisions was sent to the wreck.

More than eight months had now elapsed since Mendez set out on his perilous journey, yet there were no signs of relief. This was not the brave sailor's fault. After suffering terrible privations and encountering great dangers he reached Hispaniola. Ovando received him with kindness, but delayed sending a ship to the admiral's relief for eight months, when he sent a small caravel to Columbus, to say that he regretted not being able to send a ship to his relief, and expressing great concern at his misfortune.

Ovando's delay, in sending assistance to the admiral, attracted the attention of the colonists and excited their indignation and at the end of twelve months two vessels arrived at Jamaica. It had been a year of suffering, privation and danger. The crews were taken off the wreck, the mutineers were forgiven and taken home but Porras, the ringleader, was held a prisoner. The admiral hoisted his flag for the last time, and sailed for San Domingo, but remained there only a short time on account of the treatment of the governor.

During the voyage home, they experienced, as they had done throughout the voyage, the



most tempestuous weather. Fortune seemed to  
trown on the admiral from the beginning to the  
end of this, his last and most disastrous voyage.  
He arrived in Spain on the seventh of Novem-  
ber, 1504.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### NUNC DIMITTIS.

DEATH OF ISABELLA.—FERDINAND, EVASIVE AND  
DILATORY.—LIFE'S TIDE FAST EBBING.—  
PEACEFUL PREPARATIONS.—DEATH OF COLUM-  
BUS. — FUNERAL OBSEQUIES. — A MONUMENT  
AND A LEGEND.

WHEN Columbus arrived in Spain, he was shattered in health, and worn out by the anxieties and troubles which he had encountered in his late voyage. He now looked forward to a period of rest and repose. Again he was doomed to disappointment.

Since the time of his imprisonment and the seizure of his property by Bobadilla, his dues were either uncollected or were retained by the governor. His affairs were, therefore, in a state of confusion. He had enriched the monarchs of Spain, and spent many years in their service, yet in his old age he was suffering for want of his income. He applied to the king for the money

due to him, but while doing so, he laid still greater stress on the restoration of his offices and dignities.

He received unsatisfactory replies from the court and his bodily infirmities prevented him from visiting the king. The discoverer of the new world pleaded in vain for his dignities and his rewards. Ferdinand treated him with indifference; Isabella was dangerously ill. Domestic calamities, which the queen had suffered, induced a deep melancholy, which increased her infirmities and hastened her death. She died on the twenty-sixth of November, 1504, in the fifty-fourth year of her age. By the death of the queen, Columbus lost his only shield from the ingratitude of Ferdinand.

Columbus, whose rugged and robust health had carried him through so many labors, now presented himself at court, a broken-down old man, accompanied by his brother, Bartholomew, who acted as nurse and companion. The admiral laid his claims before the king and reminded him of his promises made under the royal word and seal. Ferdinand acknowledged his great services with many courteous expressions, but put off any

settlement by evasive answers and dilatory promises. The king hoped to induce Columbus to waive his claim to the titles conferred on him and to accept others instead. Columbus rejected the offer of substitutes, however honorable, with indignation ; his titles he looked upon as the trophies of his discoveries, and the most valuable inheritance he could bequeath to his children.

The king finding his efforts unavailing, to induce Columbus to accept other rewards, now looked forward, with hope and confidence, to the time, not far distant, when the aged discoverer would cease to demand earthly titles. The cold and politic king had not long to wait.

Care, hardship, infirmity and years of toil, had shattered the aged mariner's strong frame ; ingratitude, enmity and defamation were now completing the wreck. Life's tide was fast ebbing, as he lay neglected by the king, and forgotten by the people. Finding his infirmities increase and his strength fail, he prudently prepared for the final voyage which all must make across the great unknown.

Feeling the approach of death, he set his worldly affairs in order and attended with the

minutest care to every duty of affection and every claim of justice. He then peacefully devoted his last hours to the exercises of religion and breathed his last with the words: “Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.” He was about seventy years of age at his death, which occurred on the twentieth of May, 1506.

The distinguished mariner had followed a life on the sea for fifty-six of the seventy years of his life. In early manhood he had evinced a passion for discovery; in advanced years, when his plans were completed, he had to beg of princes to accept the gift of a new world; in old age, when the discovery was made, he had equal trouble to convince them of its importance. In an age when the ocean was a mystery, and the bravest sailor would not dare its dangers, he made a pathway across its unknown waters, and by his courage, genius, and constancy, opened up the vast treasury of the West, not only to the House of Castile and Leon, but to the brave, the daring, and the adventurous of the world. The glory of his achievement, when compared with that of the navigators who followed him, is as the effulgence of the sun in his noonday



splendor when compared to the lesser orb, that shines with a useful, but borrowed brightness.

Columbus was buried in the Convent of St. Francisco, Valladolid, but in 1513 his remains were removed to Seville and placed in the chapel of the Carthusian Monastery. The remains of his son, Diego, who died in 1526, were also deposited there; the remains of both were afterwards, in 1536, transferred to Hispaniola and deposited in the cathedral of San Domingo. In 1795 they were removed, with regal ceremony, as national relics, from San Domingo and taken to Havana in the Island of Cuba, where they were deposited in the cathedral, in the presence of the dignitaries of the church and high officers of state, with all the honors due to An admiral and Spanish Captain-General. It is a strange coincidence that from this same port of San Domingo, three hundred years before, Columbus had been taken a prisoner in chains to Spain, broken in health, ruined in fortune and deprived of his dignities. Horace says truly, "*Extinctus amabitur idem.*" Ferdinand whose coldness and ingratitude had done much to embitter the last days of the Admiral's life, erected

a monument to his memory when dead, with the inscription :

“To Castile and Leon, Columbus gave a New World.”

## CHAPTER XVII.

### A CITY OF PALACES.

CROWNING EVENT OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.—COLUMBIA ACTS THE HOSTESS.—INVITATION OF THE NATIONS.—ACT OF CONGRESS.—VAST OUTLAY.—GRANDEUR OF THE REPUBLIC REPRESENTED BY CHICAGO.

WHY, arise these palaces, with fairy-like growth, on the banks of Lake Michigan? Why, in the midst of one of Chicago's beautiful parks, are seen so many domes, pinnacles and towers, crowning with appropriate architectural design, the magnificent structures of which they form a part? Why these thousands of artisans, whose busy hands and fertile brains are developing symmetry of form, grandeur of design and elegance of structure from apparent chaos? Why this vast expenditure of labor, of time, of money?

The answer is: To celebrate the birthday of the New World, to mark an era in the world's

progress, and to be the closing and crowning event of the nineteenth century.

Four hundred years ago the existence of this vast continent was unknown to the inhabitants of the Old World. Its existence was proclaimed by the genius and the daring of Christopher Columbus, who first beheld the New World on the twelfth of October, 1492.

It has been decided by the United States Government, to celebrate the four hundredth anniversary of this event, by a World's Fair, and that Columbia, the youngest among the nations of the world, shall act the hostess, and invite her older sisters to an International Exposition of the products of the world.

The unanimous endorsement of this project, by the people of this country, prompted the Government to inquire into this vast undertaking, and the result of the inquiry has been the Government's sanction and support. The Senate and the House of Representatives have passed a special act of Congress for the regulation and guidance of its promoters, and the President, in the name of the people of the United States, has invited the nations of the world to take part in it,

and to send such exhibits as will fully illustrate their resources, development and progress.

By means of this Columbian Exposition, each nation will learn the point of development at which it has arrived, and each will take a new starting-point for future exertion.

To individuals, even more than to nations, this World's Fair is important. The present time is so full of the marvelous results of science and the rapid changes resulting from invention, that we are liable to allow them to pass unheeded, unless our attention is aroused by an event like the Columbian Exposition. The barriers that separate nations are gradually vanishing. Great steamships cross the ocean despite the storm, and powerful locomotives cross the continents with wonderful speed, trailing after them in comfort and safety palace cars filled with people. Messages sent from one side of the globe are received at the other in less time than it takes to write them, and the wonders of invention and discovery are daily astonishing the world. Science finds out the laws and Industry applies them, then Art steps in and clothes them with beauty. Formerly discovery or invention



was wrapped in mystery and kept a secret, now it is published to the world by the Daily Press, and competing effort often improves the new idea and surpasses it.

We have pointed out very briefly the origin and object of the Columbian Exposition. We will now describe the friendly battle fought by the principal cities of this country, each contending for the honor of holding this birthday celebration within its boundaries.

The competitors were, New York, the Empire City; Washington, the Seat of Government; St. Louis, the Pride of the Great Father of Waters; and Chicago, the Metropolis of the Great West. The claims of each were ably and eloquently stated before a special committee of the United States Senate. After hearing the arguments it was decided to give Chicago the honor and to impose on her the duty of preparing and conducting the great enterprise.

The considerations which prompted the committee to select Chicago may be briefly stated as follows: Her representative character as an American city. Her marvellous growth and prosperity. Her unrivalled accommodation and

transportation facilities, both for visitors and exhibits. Her unequalled site, in the midst of a spacious park on the shore of Lake Michigan. Her generosity in readily subscribing over ten millions of dollars toward the expenses. To which may be added the consideration that, the city itself will be one of the most wonderful exhibits that visitors will have presented to them.

The Act of Congress, sanctioning the celebration and giving it a national character was passed April the twenty-fifth, 1890, and begins as follows :

*An act to provide for celebrating the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus by holding an international exhibition of arts, industries, manufactures, and the product of the soil, mine, and sea, in the city of Chicago, in the State of Illinois.*

WHEREAS, It is fit and appropriate that the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America be commemorated by an exhibition of the resources of the United States of America, their development, and of the progress of civilization in the New World : and

WHEREAS, Such an exhibition should be of a national and international character, so that not only the people of our Union and this continent, but those of all nations

as well, can participate, and should therefore have the sanction of the Congress of the United States : Therefore,

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That an exhibition of arts, industries, manufactures, and products of the soil, mine, and sea shall be inaugurated in the year eighteen hundred and ninety-two, in the city of Chicago, in the State of Illinois.

An estimate of the appropriations, from every source, necessary to defray the cost of this vast undertaking, reaches the enormous sum of forty millions of dollars, with the prospect that it will exceed that amount. In this as in every other undertaking, Chicago, the representative city of the West, stands forth as the highest type of the characteristics that have made this young nation the wonder of the world, and she is determined that this celebration shall accord with the national character and be in keeping with the grandeur and the dignity of this great Republic.

## GLOSSARY

OF FOREIGN WORDS AND PHRASES, PROPER NAMES, AND  
WORDS NOT GENERALLY USED.

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ADELANTADO, lieutenant-governor.

ADMIRAL, a maritime commander-in-chief, the chief officer of a fleet. The word is said to have been introduced by the Genoese in the twelfth century.

ALCALDE, a justice of the peace.

ALGIERS, one of the Barbary states in the north of Africa, on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. It is in possession of the French republic.

ALHAMBRA, the red city, formerly the royal palace of the Moorish kings in Spain. (See Granada.)

ARRAGON, a province of Spain, formerly an independent kingdom, but united under one Spanish monarch in the fifteenth century.

AZORES, a group of nine islands in the Atlantic ocean, directly west of Portugal to which country they belong. They are of volcanic origin ; St. Michael is the largest but Terceira is the capital. They do not possess a single good harbor and are therefore shunned by navigators.

BABYLON, the city of Babel or Babylon was built on the river Euphrates, by Nimrod, about 2500 B. C. The period of its greatest glory was about 1000 B. C., when its power was considerably extended over the East.

CAMOENS, a Portuguese poet and the only writer of that country, who has obtained much celebrity abroad ; his fame rests on the epic poem, " Os Lusíadas " or the Lusitanians ; the ancient name of Portugal having been Lusitania. He died in 1579.

CANARIES, a group of islands in the Atlantic ocean, South of Madeira and much nearer to the African coast ; they are believed to be the the Fortunate Islands of the ancients. There are six islands, the most important is Teneriffe, the peak of which, 12,000 feet high, is a well known landmark.

CARAVEL, a light, round, old-fashioned ship.

CARIBS, the inhabitants of the Caribbee Islands, as some of the West Indian Islands are called. They are of an olive-brown color, paint their bodies red and devour the flesh of their captives.

CARTHUSIAN, a religious order of monks, founded by St. Bruno, in 1086, who derived their name from the desert of Chartreuse, near the city of Grenoble, in the southeast of France, where they built their first hermitages.

CASTILE, a province in Spain, formerly an independent kingdom but was united under one Spanish monarch in the fifteenth century.

CEUTA, a city on the African coast of the Mediterranean Sea, opposite to Gibraltar.

CONVENT of Our Lady of La Rabida, is situated about a mile from the town of Palos, in Andalusia. It received its name, La Rabida, from the protection said



to be afforded to the inhabitants of the district, particularly from madness, by a miraculous image known by the name of Our Lady of La Rabida. The convent would have long since been forgotten but for the assistance afforded to Columbus by its prior.

COPERNICUS, Nicholas, a native of Prussia, eminent for mathematical and astronomical knowledge, in his "De Revolutionibus Orbium" he argues that the sun is the center of the planetary system, from which circumstance he is usually called the originator of the present system of astronomy, although it was largely the work of Kepler, Galileo, and Newton. He died in 1543.

EGYPT, called by the Hebrews, Mizraim, situated in the Valley of the Nile. Its history commences about 2500 B. C.; but some believe that it began much earlier. The people were allied to the Semetic and negro races.

ESCUTCHEON, the shield on which a coat-of-arms is represented. The surface of the shield is called the field, distinguished by tinctures, supporters, etc. Scott in "Marmion" alludes to the royal banner of Scotland as "The ruddy lion rampt in gold."

"EXTINCTUS amabitur idem." The same person (who was envied while alive) shall be loved when dead.

GENOA, city in Italy on the Mediterranean Sea, became in the Middle Ages the capital of an independent republic and was distinguished for its commerce and wealth. For some time it was the great rival of Ven-

ice, with which city it carried on violent and destructive wars. From its magnificence, Genoa has acquired in Italy the title of "La Superba."

GIBRALTAR, a fortified promontory belonging to England, situated at the southern point of Spain. It was taken from the Spanish in 1704, and although several times besieged, has since remained a British possession. It is the site of the "Pillars of Hercules," which, according to the myth, were formed by Hercules cleaving asunder a mountain which closed the Mediterranean and so opened that sea to the Atlantic.

GRANADA, situated in the southern portion of the basin of the Gaudalquiver in Spain, built on two hills 2,200 feet above the sea level, one of them is crowned by the celebrated Moorish fortress, the Alhambra; founded by the Moors and from whatever point it is viewed, it has an aspect of magnificance. It is an object of historical and architectural interest.

GUTENBERG, John, the inventor of printing at Mayence in Germany about 1437. It came into general use about the year 1500, and produced important social changes.

HORACE, a native of the South of Italy, born 65 B. C. He was a great favorite at Rome; excelled as a lyricist. His pieces are exquisitely finished. He is the most popular of Roman writers.

ICELAND, which signifies island in the native language, lies near the Arctic circle, directly north of the British Isles. It has an area of forty thousand square miles;

its climate is like that of Northern Sweden. Its inhabitants are the direct descendants of the Norsemen and their language is the standard of the northern dialect of the Gothic.

INDIA, a name given to this country by Columbus on his discovery of America, under the impression that it was the eastern coast of Asia, that he had reached.

KEPLER, a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, who for some time acted as assistant to Tycho Brahe, the Danish astronomer ; his fame rests on certain laws of planetary motions known as "Kepler's Laws." He died in 1630.

LONGFELLOW, Henry Wadsworth, born in Maine in 1807, one of the sweetest of American poets, author of *Evangeline*, the *Story of Hiawatha*, and numerous other poems.

LUSIADAS, See Camoens.

MAMMOTH, the Russian name for an extinct species of animal of great size. The remains of one were found in 1799. The word is now used as an adjective to express largeness.

MARCO POLO, a Venetian who travelled in the East and on his return in 1260 introduced the mariner's compass into Europe. The use of this instrument greatly facilitated maritime enterprise.

MARINER'S COMPASS, an instrument for directing the course of ships at sea. It consists of a card marked with the points of direction, and a magnetic needle that always points to the north ; these are enclosed in

a case covered with glass and suspended so as to remain always in a horizontal position. It was introduced into Europe by Marco Polo.

MASTODON, a genus of mammiferous animals resembling the elephant, now extinct and known only by their fossil remains.

MADEIRAS, this group of islands consists of one principal island and several smaller ones around it, lying about four hundred miles from the northwest coast of Africa in the Atlantic ocean. It is celebrated for its wine and for its peculiarly mild and uniform climate. The chief town is Funchal.

MOORS, the inhabitants of Morocco, in northwestern Africa; they held dominion in Spain for eight hundred years; but were conquered and their kingdom of Granada subdued in 1491, after a ten years' war.

NEWTON, SIR ISAAC, was born in Linconshire, England, on Christmas day, 1642, just one year after the death of Galileo. He holds, by universal consent, the highest rank among natural philosophers; his great work is the "Principia" (Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy). In 1666, while sitting in his garden reflecting on the principles of gravity, the fall of an apple from a tree gave him the idea of universal gravitation which he applied to the planetary motions. He died in 1727.

NORMANDY, a portion of the kingdom of France ceded by Charles the Simple, to the Northmen in 912, from whom it received the name, which it still retains.



NORSEMEN or Northmen, the inhabitants of Norway, Sweden and Denmark, who were so called in early times.

PALOS, a town in the south of Spain, in the province of Andalusia ; it was a good sized town, with a small harbor in the time of Columbus, but it is now a mere village of a few hundred inhabitants, who subsist by labor in the fields ; there is no landing place nor anything to indicate that from it, set out four hundred years ago, an expedition for the discovery of a new world.

PHARAOH, a title equivalent to king ; it was given to a long line of sovereigns of different dynasties in Egypt.

PORTO SANTO, an island off the coast of Africa, discovered in the time of Prince Henry, a portion of it was given to Bartolomeo Morios de Palestrello as a reward. Columbus married Palestrello's daughter, Doña Felipa and went to reside there for some time.

PYRAMIDS, are huge structures of masonry, with a square basis, terminating in a point, and are believed to have been erected as monumental tombs of the Pharoahs ; these wonderful buildings are supposed to be nearly four thousand years old.

REGIDORS, magistrates of a city.

ROMULUS, the reputed founder of Rome, from whom it is said to have received its name. The mythic fable is that Romulus and Remus, twin brothers of royal parentage, were exposed when infants to perish, and were saved by being suckled by a she-wolf on the Palatine Hill, where Romulus subsequently founded the city of Rome.



- SAGRES, a headland on the southwest point of Spain, on the Atlantic coast, south of Cape St. Vincent.
- SENECA, philosopher, born in the first year of the Christian era, in Spain ; most of his life was spent in Rome where he acted as tutor to Nero. He was condemned to death as a conspirator, but was allowed to choose the manner of his death ; he took poison but was drowned in a bath.
- TAGUS, an important river which flows through Spain and Portugal and empties itself into the Atlantic ocean. Lisbon, the chief city of Portugal, is situated at its mouth.
- TE DEUM, a hymn of praise, frequently chanted on the occasion of some great national event. The commencing words are : *Te Deum laudamus*, We praise Thee, O Lord !
- TITANS, a name given to the sons of Coelus (heaven) and Terra (earth). They were all of gigantic stature and with proportionate strength. The wars of the Titans against the gods are very celebrated in mythology, where they are credited with having piled Pelion on Osso, two mountains in Thessaly, to enable them to reach the dwellings of the gods.
- TRIPOLI, one of the Barbary States, in the north of Africa, on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.
- TUNIS, one of the Barbary States, in Africa, on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, between Algiers and Tripoli.
- ULTIMA THULE, the most remote northern islands, known to the Romans ; probably the name was not always applied to the same place, but varied with the progress of discovery.

UNIVERSITY, an assembly of colleges, in which is taught all the branches of learning; the first was that of Paris, established about the year 1200.

VASCO DE GAMA, a Portuguese navigator, who was the first to make a voyage to India round the Cape of Good Hope. This took place in 1497, and altered the whole current of traffic between Europe and India. He died at Goa, in the East Indies, in 1524.

VICEROY, the governor of a country, who rules in the name and with the authority of the king for whom he acts as substitute.

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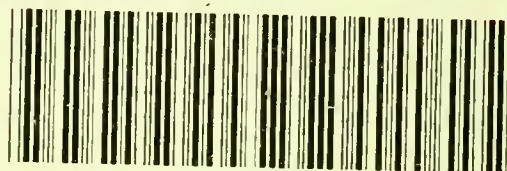








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